

NEUILLY SA MÈRE !

A film by Gabriel Julien Laferrrière



Feature Length

Genre: Comedy

Origin: France

Running Time: 90 minutes

Release Year: 2009, France

SYNOPSIS :

Fourteen-year-old Sami (Samy Seghir) is a *beur* (a French person of North African descent) living in Chalon-sur-Saône, a relatively poor city in the Burgundy region. When his widowed mother (Farida Khelfa) takes a job working on a boat, she sends Sami to live with her sister Djamila (Rachida Brakni), who is married to Frenchman Stanislas de Chazelle (Denis Podalydès). They live in the upscale neighborhood of Neuilly-sur-Seine, an affluent suburb of Paris, with Stanislas' two children from his prior marriage: Charles (Jérémy Denisty), who aspires to be a politician someday, and Caroline (Chloé Coulloud). At first Charles resents Sami's presence in his house, but they gradually become friends. Sami enrolls in classes at Saint-Exupéry, a private school there. On his first day, Sami is made fun of by many of his classmates at school ...

REVIEW :

Pierre Vavasseur-Le Parisien

« Neuilly sa mère » is an irresistible comedy, that plays on the various faces of our society, its castes, its excesses and its stereotypes. Well done, entertaining and audacious. »

Gilles Botineau-Dvdrama

A family comedy both funny and original, as well as an extremely relishing political satire. A great achievement, for both kids and as their parents !

DETAILS :

Langage :

Different levels of language :

- Kids sometimes use slang or swear. The use of this bad language often reflects the way of life of the people from the inner city suburbs where the main character grew up.
- Some adults have slightly fierce arguments using blasphemes. This bad language is supposed to parody the wealthy families from the rich Parisian suburbs, who, under their sophisticated behaviors, hide rudeness and non-class.
- On the contrary, we hear a lot of fine words, used by other wealthier people, illustrating their world class way of life and education.

Violence :

- Sami, the main character, gets slapped.
- Sami's aunt tries to slap another woman, thinking she is her husband's mistress.
- Sami is having a childish fight with another kid at school because he made him eat pork (and he is Muslim).
- During a birthday party, a gang of "bad boys" from the suburbs invite themselves and start a big fight.
- The "bad boys" beat a teenager, who starts to bleed a little bit and goes to the hospital.

To offset all this, somewhat childish, violence, Marie, a secondary character, tries to

influence Sami not to be violent anymore and stops him for giving a few punches ...

Sexual Activity :

- At the end of the film, two kids exchange a kiss.

Nudity :

- No nudity

Alcohol consumption and smoking :

- We see adults smoking cigarettes.
- No consumption of alcohol.

Psychological impact :

- We see a few kids getting bullied by the « bad boys » from the inner-city suburbs. These scenes are parodies: the bad boys are ridiculous, and even feel bad at the end for what they are doing, and try to justify themselves.
- This film deals with the threats, violence, intimidations and discrimination suffered by some kids at school.
- Sami, the main character, is bullied because of his Moroccan origin.

In the entire film, all the negative aspects (use of bad language, violence etc...) is satirized. Sami, the main character, who is at first discriminated, intimidated and bullied, manages at the end to make new friends and falls in love with a girl from the wealthiest suburbs. The “bad boys” get punished.

The morale of the story is positive, optimistic and entertaining.



Sami arrives in his new class; he is introduced by his teacher (left)



The wealthy family De Chazelle waiting for Sami



A lively diner at the De Chazelle's